

MINUTES

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY & MONITORING NETWORK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Conference Call

9:00-10:00am MT, August 4, 2003

Members Participating

Dan Licht (lead) – Network I&M Coordinator
Phyllis Adams – Regional I&M Coordinator
Ruthann Knudson – Agate Fossil Beds NM
Sandee Dingman – Badlands NP
Andy Banta – Fort Union Trading Post NHS
Penny Knuckles – Theodore Roosevelt NP
Bob Manasek – Scotts Bluff NM
Jim Cheatham – Devils Tower NM
Carmen Blausey – Niobrara Scenic Riverway
Dan Foster (on behalf of Dan Roddy) – Wind Cave NP

Members Absent

Eric Nelson – Mt. Rushmore NMEM
Wayne Werkmeister – Missouri NRR
Knife River Indian Villages NHS (no representative designated)
Fort Laramie NHS (no representative designated)
Todd Suess – Jewel Cave NM

Also in Attendance

Brian Kenner – Badlands NP

Call Purpose and Background

The purpose of the conference call was to formally launch the Technical Committee (Committee) and to bring everyone up to date on the status of the I&M Program and the role of the Committee. Prior to the meeting, Licht had emailed to all Committee members a list of talking points, and a copy of the Network Charter and a Powerpoint file with a hypothetical I&M Program org chart. These were referred to in the conference call.

Licht discussed the transition from a Steering Committee to a formal Board of Directors and a formal Technical Committee. He stated that the Steering Committee was being dissolved and that the Technical Committee and Board would now lead the Network and I&M Program.

Licht described the current composition and role of the Board of Directors. He described what was in the Charter in regards to the Board. Licht described the activities performed by the Board to date.

Licht discussed the role of Technical Committee, primarily by referring to the Charter. Licht stated that as of the time of the call, Knife River Indian Villages NHS and Fort Laramie NHS had still not designated representatives to the Committee.

Licht discussed the hypothetical org chart for the I&M Program and the status of I&M personnel. He mentioned that he had taken the liberty of making a selection for the Biological Technician position. He asked if others wanted to be more involved in the selection process, but no one stated they did, at least in regards to the technician level positions. Licht stated that he probably would ask for input on the Data Manager cert once that is received. Licht stated that the Network Coordinator, Data Manager, and Biological Technician positions are the only certain near-term hires, but he would like to hire an administrative assistant (perhaps part-time) if FY04 funds allow it. Those who responded were supportive of that.

Licht discussed the office space for I&M Program. He stated that Mount Rushmore NMEM currently had room for the Coordinator, Data Manager, Technician, and Dr. Symstad; however, they did not have room beyond that. He stated that the Mount Rushmore Superintendent was very supportive of the program and was willing to expand a proposed maintenance building, or consider other options, to accommodate the I&M Program.

Licht discussed the budget for FY04. He stated that they would get \$197k for inventory work. However, there was uncertainty about how much monitoring (i.e., base) money they would get. They were scheduled for full funding (around \$900k); however, it was unlikely they would get that.

Licht broached the subject of having the Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) and Fire Effects program as formal members of the Committee. It was decided by the group that although it was very important to have the EPMT and Fire Effects programs in the loop, and involved in conference calls and meetings as needed, they should not be formal members of the Committee.

Licht discussed the current approach and work towards developing the Vital Signs monitoring plan. He stated that he was working on an agreement with Dr. Nels Troelstrup of South Dakota State University to develop the aquatics portion of the plan. He stated that Dr. Amy Symstad of USGS-BRD had agreed to assist with developing the vegetation component of the plan.

There was discussion of the Science Advisory Committee in regards to who would be on it, the size of it, and when it would be formed. Licht stated that he expected to start working on the committee this fall and would be soliciting input and nominations from the Technical Committee.

Licht stated that he was considering a fall meeting of the Committee. He asked if the Committee wanted regularly scheduled conference calls, or on an as-needed basis. The group response suggested that calls on an as-needed basis would suffice.

Dingman announced that she had accepted another job and would be leaving in the winter. Kenner stated that Badlands NP had not yet determined who her replacement would be on the Committee.

Followup

Drafted by: Dan Licht

Drafted on: 9/11/2003

Finalized by:

Finalized on: